

with some of my colleagues in the morning and get back to the President.

Third, we are still negotiating S. 343, the regulatory reform bill. Under the agreement, I can call for the regular order at any time, but an hour later we could have a cloture vote on S. 343. Obviously, I will give the Democratic leader, Senator DASCHLE, adequate notice before that is done. But there are still some negotiations underway. It is still our hope that we can find some common ground, though I must say some of the demands cannot be met. Perhaps some others can. And we should, hopefully, reach some final decision on that bill sometime tomorrow.

Also, I hope, after we work out the rescissions agreement, that tomorrow morning following the vote on the rescissions package, we will take up legislative branch appropriations. We have notified Senator MACK, the subcommittee chair, so that we will start on our first appropriations bill somewhere between 9:30 and probably about 10 tomorrow morning.

So that is sort of a summary of where we are. And while I dislike not being able to accommodate the staff, we need to wait until we hear from the White House before we know that we can proceed on the rescissions package. Perhaps we will just have a recess until 8:15. At least the staff can get up and walk around.

RECESS UNTIL 8:15 P.M.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess until 8:15.

There being no objection, at 7:55 p.m., the Senate recessed until 8:14 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. BROWN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, in his capacity as the Senator from Colorado, suggests the absence of a quorum. The clerk will call the roll. The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, we have been unsuccessful in working out an agreement with the Senator from Minnesota. It is unfortunate. We would have hoped he would come to the floor and use some of the time this evening. He has refused to do that. So it seems to me, if you cannot get anybody to cooperate, there is no reason to worry about the rescission package and I am not going to worry about it. Somebody else can worry about it from now on. I have talked to the President about it today. I have talked to the chief of staff at the White House. We thought we had an agreement. We cannot get the agreement.

I am going to ask consent and let somebody object to the agreement as soon as we can find an objector. I wish it were the Senator from Minnesota, Senator WELLSTONE, since he is the one who we are trying to accommodate. It is hard to do.

So, tomorrow we will have morning business from 9 to 10, then we will go on to the legislative branch appropriations. And hopefully, following that, military construction appropriations. And perhaps, maybe by then we will be able to go back to the reg reform bill, S. 343.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST— H.R. 1944

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now turn to the consideration of H.R. 1944 and that it be considered under the following agreement: One amendment in order to be offered by Senator WELLSTONE, regarding education funding/job training and LIHEAP, on which there be a division, and each of the two divisions be limited to 1 hour to be equally divided in the usual form, with all time to be used this evening with the exception of 40 minutes; then, when the Senate reconvenes on Thursday at 9 a.m., the Senate resume H.R. 1944 and the remaining 40 minutes on the amendment and the 10 minutes for the managers on the bill, to be followed immediately by a motion to table the first Wellstone division, and that following that vote, the majority leader be recognized to place the bill on the calendar. If that action is not exercised, the Senate then proceed immediately to vote on a motion to table the second Wellstone division to be followed immediately by a vote on passage of H.R. 1944.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DASCHLE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished Democratic leader is recognized.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I appreciate the distinguished majority leader's effort to try to accommodate Senators on our side. The offer that the Senators on our side, Senators WELLSTONE and MOSELEY-BRAUN, have made is that we have three amendments and three votes. This request accommodates two amendments. I know that there are still some outstanding negotiations underway with regard to the third matter.

This is a very important bill. It deals with assistance to be provided in cases in California and Oklahoma, as we all know. I hope, as close as we are, we could continue to try to resolve these differences. But unfortunately, as a result of our inability to resolve that third outstanding matter, on behalf of Senators WELLSTONE and MOSELEY-BRAUN I have to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Kansas retains the floor.

Mr. DOLE. I would just add, my understanding is the White House is working in good faith. I have talked to the chief of staff, Leon Panetta. And as far as I know, everyone is in good faith. But nobody accepts anybody's good faith, at least the Senator from Minnesota does not. He has every right to have someone object to the agreement, but it is important to the people of Oklahoma City. This bill is important to people in about 39 States. It is not just important to the Senator from Minnesota. The amendment he is talking about is less than \$5 million, the third amendment.

I have tried to help him on that amendment. I have asked the White House, myself, to try to accommodate the Senator from Minnesota. I would think, in the spirit of comity, he would let us proceed and have the debate tonight. I assume when the President or chief of staff indicate they think they can work something out, that would be—at least good enough for this Senator. But maybe not the Senator from Minnesota.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S ADDRESS ON AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, earlier today, President Clinton delivered an eloquent and excellent address on one of the most important issues the Nation faces—the future of affirmative action.

In my view, and I believe in the view of the vast majority of the American people, President Clinton is doing the right and courageous thing. He is preserving and improving the best of affirmative action, and eliminating its abuses.

For a generation, beginning with the Supreme Court's landmark 1954 decision outlawing school segregation, America has made significant bipartisan progress in attempting to end the most blatant forms of discrimination and racism in our society.

Much of this progress has been achieved through affirmative action, involving the leadership of government at every level—Federal, State, and local—and the action of dedicated private citizens.

Unfortunately, discrimination persists, often in subtle forms. We have made real progress, but much more remains to be done. Good jobs still too often remain closed or less available to qualified minorities and women because of bigotry. By helping to assure that every individual has an equal opportunity, affirmative action is one of our most effective means and best hopes for rooting out that bias.